

REMARKS

1. Status of the claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 11 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 12-15 have been newly added; no new matter is introduced by these claims.

2. Allowable subject matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 11 is allowed.

3. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 7,108,820 (Suzuki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,124,384 ("Shiraishi"). In the interests of prosecution efficiency, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 4, and 5, rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

4. New claims

Claims 12-15 have been newly added. As each of claims 12- 15 includes elements provided in canceled claim 1, no new matter is introduced. As each of claims 12- 15 depends either directly or indirectly from allowed claim 11, Applicants submit that new claims 12 – 15 are also allowable for at least this reason.

Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing the addition of new claims 12 – 15 with Applicants' representative prior to the mailing of this Amendment, and providing guidance as to requirements for entry of the claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below

Dated: December 4, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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